

CLAIMS

1 An image altering device for an image
producing apparatus (300) with an optical input (5),
5 characterized by:

a mirror (1) having a first plane surface (2)
and a second curved surface (3),

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a driving device (7) coupled to the mirror (1)
and adapted to rotate the mirror (1) to a first posi-
10 tion, where the first plane surface (2) is inserted
into an optical path (31) of the image producing appara-
tus (6), the optical path being external to the optical
input (5), thereby providing a first field of view of
the image producing apparatus, the driving device (7)
15 also being adapted to rotate the mirror (1) to a second
position, where the second curved surface (3) is in-
serted into the optical path of the image producing
apparatus, thereby providing a second field of view
of the image producing apparatus.

20 2. A device according to claim 1, where the
curved surface (3) forms a portion of a sphere.

3. A device according to claim 1 or 2, where
25 the first plane surface (2) has an angular displacement
of 180 degrees with respect to the second curved sur-
face (3).

4. A device according to any of claims 1-3,
30 where the mirror (10) comprises a third surface (13)
with an optical characteristic different from the first
plane surface (11) or the second curved surface (12),
the driving device (17) being adapted to rotate the
mirror (10) to a third position, where the third sur-
35 face (13) is inserted into the optical path of the
image producing apparatus.

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5. A device according to claim 4, where the third surface (13) is plane.

6. A device according to claim 4 or 5, where
5 the third surface (13) attenuates certain spectral
components of the reflected light.

7. A device according to claim 6, where the spectral components of the reflected light are uniformly attenuated.

8. A device according to any preceding claim, where the driving device (7) is adapted to receive a control signal from a control unit (600) and to rotate the mirror (1) to the first position or to the second position depending on a value of the control signal.

9. A device according to any preceding claim,
where the driving device (7) comprises at least one
20 belt for rotating the mirror.

10. A device according to any preceding claim, where the driving device (7) comprises at least one gear wheel for rotating the mirror.

11. A method of providing a plurality of fields of view of an image producing apparatus, **characterized** by:

rotating a mirror (1) having a first plane sur-
face (2) to a first position, where the first surface
(2) is inserted into an optical path (31) of the image
producing apparatus, thereby providing a first field
of view, the optical path being external to the optical
input, and

rotating the mirror (1) to a second position, where a second curved surface (3) is inserted into the optical path of the image producing apparatus, thereby providing a second field of view of the image producing apparatus.

12. A method according to claim 11, where the mirror (1) is rotated by an angle of 180 degrees.

13. A method according to claim 11 or 12, where the mirror (10) comprises a third surface (13) with an optical characteristic different from the first plane surface (11) or the second curved surface (12), the third surface (13) being inserted into the optical path of the image producing apparatus, thereby providing a third field of view of the image producing apparatus.

14. A digital camera (300) having panning and/or tilting functionality, comprising: a camera housing (6) with an optical input (5), such as a lens or objective; an image capturing unit (500) for producing a digital image from light received through the optical input (5); and a controller (600), **characterized by:**

a mirror (1), mounted externally to the camera housing (6), having a first plane surface (2) and a second curved surface (3), and

a driving device (7) coupled to the mirror (1) and adapted to rotate the mirror (1) to a first position, where the first plane surface (2) is inserted into an optical path (31) of the digital camera (300), the optical path being external to the optical input (5), thereby providing a first field of view of the digital camera, the driving device (7) also being adapted to rotate the mirror (1) to a second position, where the second curved surface (3) is inserted into

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the optical path of the digital camera, thereby providing a second field of view of the digital camera.

15. A digital camera according to claim 14,
5 where the curved surface (3) forms a portion of a
sphere.

16. A digital camera according to claim 14 or 15, where the first plane surface (2) has an angular displacement of 180 degrees with respect to the second curved surface (3).

17. A digital camera according to any of claims 14-16, where the mirror (10) comprises a third surface (13) with an optical characteristic different from the first plane surface (11) or the second curved surface (12), the driving device (17) being adapted to rotate the mirror (10) to a third position, where the third surface (13) is inserted into the optical path of the digital camera.

18. A digital camera according to claim 17,
where the third surface (13) is plane.

25 19. A digital camera according to claim 17 or
18, where the third surface (13) attenuates certain
spectral components of the reflected light.

20. A digital camera according to claim 19,
30 where the spectral components of the reflected light
are uniformly attenuated.

21. A digital camera according to any of claims 14-20, where the driving device (7) is adapted to receive a control signal from a control unit and to rotate the mirror (1) to the first position or to the

second position depending on a value of the control signal.

22. A device according to any of claims 14-21,
5 where the driving device (7) comprises at least one
belt for rotating the mirror.

23. A device according to any of claims 14-22,
where the driving device (7) comprises at least one
10 gear wheel for rotating the mirror.

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